

## 4.0 Public, Government and First Nation Consultation

### 4.1 Introduction

Consultation is an important component of any EA process. An integrated consultation program ensures that public and agency stakeholders are aware of what is being proposed and have an opportunity to provide input before final decisions are made.

The consultation process for the proposed Duart TS included the following elements:

- Public notices
- Public Information Centre's (PIC's)
- Stakeholder meeting and correspondence, and
- A project webpage

Input from the public and agencies was considered by the study team and incorporated into the project where appropriate.

These aspects of the consultation program are summarized in the following sections. Copies of consultation program materials, PIC displays, and correspondence from agencies and the public are included in the appendices as noted below.

### 4.2 Government Notification and Consultation

All government and agency stakeholders were contacted during the early planning stages of the Project and asked to provide any input. A list of stakeholders and their contact details is provided in **Appendix B1**. A summary of consultation with Agencies is provided in **Appendix G1**. The following efforts were made to notify the stakeholders about the project and consult with them:

- On April 19, 2007 Hydro One staff met with municipal officials from the Municipalities of Chatham-Kent and West Elgin to introduce the project and discuss potential issues or concerns.
- Initial notification letters were sent on May 8, 2007 to relevant provincial ministries, agencies, county and local municipalities and Conservation Authorities (i.e. the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority). The letter provided a brief description of the undertaking and the study area as well as the Class EA process. A copy of the notification letter is provided in **Appendix B2**.
- An Initial notification letter was sent to municipal officials during the weeks of May 20 and May 27, 2007 and subsequent briefings were held with these officials. A copy of the letter is provided in **Appendix B2**.
- Consultation was arranged by way of personal visits and/or phone and e-mail conversations with interested agencies to get their feedback, comments and concerns about the undertaking, to compile baseline data and to discuss constraints and mitigation measures. A summary of the consultation with these agencies is provided in **Appendix G1**.
- PIC 1 – invitations were sent to all agencies identified in the list of stakeholders on June 1, 2007. A copy of the letter is provided in **Appendix C1**.
- PIC 1 – invitations were sent to municipal officials during the weeks of May 20 and May 27, 2007. A copy of the letter is provided in **Appendix C2**.
- PIC 2 Postponement – letters were sent on December 18, 2007 to all agencies identified in the list of stakeholders. A copy of the letter is provided in **Appendix D1**.

- PIC 2 Postponement – letters were sent to municipal officials on January 29, 2008. A copy of this letter is provided in **Appendix D1**.
- Letters were sent to key agencies (i.e. the MOE, MTO, MNR, LTVCA, OMAFRA, Municipality of West Elgin and Municipality of Chatham-Kent) on March 23, 2009. The objectives of these letters were to provide an update on the proposed Rodney TS (now called Duart TS) project, present the preferred TS site identified by Hydro One, and to request specific comments or concerns to the preferred site. A copy of the letter is provided in **Appendix G2** and comments received can be found in **Appendix G1**.
- PIC 2 – invitation letters dated March 26, 2009 were sent to all agencies identified in the list of stakeholders. A copy of the letter is provided in **Appendix D4**.
- PIC 2 – invitation letters to municipal officials were sent on March 25, 2009. A copy of the letter is provided in **Appendix D4**.
- Follow-up phone calls were made to municipal officials throughout the EA process.
- Regular updates to project information are posted on Hydro One's project web site: [www.HydroOneNetworks.com/newprojects](http://www.HydroOneNetworks.com/newprojects). A copy of the web page is provided in **Appendix B3**.
- A dedicated contact person and a toll free project hotline were made available throughout the EA process.

### **4.3 Public Notification and Consultation**

As noted previously, two PICs were held for this project. The local community, potentially-affected property owners, key interest groups and agencies were notified about the project

and the PICs by way of newspaper advertisements, direct mail outs and Canada Post Unaddressed Admail.

#### ***4.3.1 Public Information Centre #1***

The first PIC was held on June 14, 2007 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm, at the Rodney Community Centre in Rodney. This PIC was an opportunity for those interested in the project to gather more information and direct questions to the Hydro One Project Team. Newspaper advertisements were placed in the following local newspapers to inform the public about the specific details of the PIC:

- *The Sprit of Bothwell* on June 6 and June 13, 2007
- *The Ridgetown Independent* on June 6 and June 13, 2007
- *The Thamesville Herald* on June 6 and June 13, 2007
- *West Lorne Elgin Chronicle*, May 31 and June 7, 2007

In addition to the newspaper advertisements, a Canada Post Unaddressed Ad Mail was prepared (which included the PIC #1 invitation ad) and delivered to residences within the study area. This multi-faceted approach helped ensure more comprehensive notification, and captured tenants who live in the area but who are not municipal property owners. The newspaper advertisement invited interested parties to attend the PIC. It provided details about the proposed undertaking and a map of the study area. It also provided contact information for Hydro One, including a contact name, telephone number, email address, as well as a link to the Hydro One web site where more information about the project could be obtained. A copy of the newspaper advertisement is attached in **Appendix C3**.

In total, 27 individuals attended the first PIC. Attendees included municipal, agency and local business representatives. Based on the discussions and questions documented during the PIC, no significant concerns about the project were raised. Many of the visitors at the PIC talked at length with Hydro One representatives, providing their views and sharing local knowledge with the project team.

The PIC provided property owners and interested parties with the opportunity to review the project plans, provide input on Hydro One’s planning process and discuss their concerns with Hydro One team members. After signing in at the registration desk, visitors were provided with a brochure containing project and contact information. Visitors were typically accompanied by a member of Hydro One’s team who assisted them with the review of the panels and with identifying their properties on study area maps. Handouts with information on electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) and energy conservation were also provided. Copies of the panels and brochure that were made available at the PIC are provided in **Appendix C4 and C5** respectively. A copy of the sign-in sheet is provided in **Appendix C6**.

Participants were encouraged to submit any comments or concerns they had about the proposed project by filling out a “comment sheet” made available at the event. A sample of comment sheet is provided in **Appendix C7**.

The PIC #1 Summary Report is provided in **Appendix C8**. Detailed responses to each comment or concern can be found in **Appendix H1**.

Following PIC#1, a letter was sent to community members who provided written comments expressing their concerns about the proposed Duart TS. This letter acknowledged receipt of their comments and provided notification of PIC#2 delay. The letter also included community and system benefits and indicated that recipients of the letter would be included on the project mailing list and personally notified of the date and location of PIC#2. A copy of this letter is provided in **Appendix C9**.

#### ***4.3.2 Public Information Centre #2***

On April 6, 2009, 13 properties were visited (near the preferred Duart TS site) to speak directly with property owners, discuss their issues and concerns and extend an invitation to the PIC scheduled the next day. The following are the main issues identified: (Refer to **Appendix H1** for Hydro One responses to concerns)

- Potential for reduction in property value
- Why can’t the St. Thomas and Kent TS be refurbished?

- Is this project needed to support future wind projects?

The second PIC was held from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at the Highgate Community Hall. The main purpose of PIC #2 was to present and seek input on the preferred site for the proposed Duart TS, and to outline the next steps in the Class EA process.

Newspaper advertisements were placed in the following local newspapers to inform the public about the specific details of the PIC:

- *The Ridgeway Independent* on March 25 and April 1, 2009
- *The Dresden Bothwell Sprit Leader* March 25 and April 1, 2009
- *The Thamesville Herald* on April 1
- *West Lorne Elgin Chronicle* on March 26 and April 2, 2009

The PIC #2 invitations were also mailed directly to individuals who had expressed interest in the project (those who subscribed to the project mailing list), and to property owners within the West Elgin portion of the study area. In addition to the newspaper advertisements, a Canada Post Unaddressed Ad Mail was prepared (which included the PIC #1 invitation ad) and delivered to residences within the entire study area.

The advertisement announced the preferred TS site, invited interested parties to attend the PIC and provided Hydro One's contact information. A copy of the newspaper advertisement is attached in **Appendix D3**.

Invitation letters for PIC #2 were sent out to all agencies identified in **Appendix B1**. A sample of the invitation letter is provided in **Appendix D4**. Invitation letters were also sent to community members who indicated special interest in the Duart TS project prior to the second PIC. A sample letter is provided in **Appendix D5**.

In total, 41 individuals attended the second PIC. All attendees received a hardcopy of the display panels and a comment form upon arrival. Display panels were used to explain the

proposed Duart TS project, including but not limited to, the following: need for the project; proposed TS location, site identification criteria and evaluation process; comparison of alternative sites; the preferred site; environmental mitigation measures; and the Class EA process. A copy of the panels displayed at PIC#2 is provided in **Appendix D6**.

Large scale maps of the study area and various proposed layouts of Duart TS were on display. Brochures on a variety of subjects, including EMFs, stray voltage and energy consumption, were also made available. A sign-in sheet was maintained to record participant attendance; a sample copy is provided in **Appendix D7**.

The participants were assisted by the Hydro One Project Team in reviewing the display panels and maps made available at the PIC. The Hydro One Project Team described the study area, the project components, the preferred TS site and the rationale for its selection. Environmental and social constraints within the study area and alternative TS sites were also discussed. Participants were encouraged to submit any comments or concerns they had about the proposed project by filling out a “comment sheet” made available at the event. A sample of a comment sheet is provided in **Appendix D8**.

The PIC #2 Summary Report is provided in **Appendix D9**. Detailed responses to each comment or concern can be found in **Appendix H1**.

#### **4.4 Interest Groups Notification and Consultation**

Hydro One provided project information to several interest groups such as the St Thomas Field Naturalist Club, West Elgin Nature Trust, West Elgin Nature Club, Elgin Federation of Agriculture, Kent Federation of Agriculture, and Safe Hydro Alliance. The Notice of Commencement Letters regarding the proposed undertaking was sent to interest groups on May 8, 2007. A copy of the notification letter is provided in **Appendix B2**. Invitation letters to PIC #1 and PIC #2 were sent to interest groups on May 30, 2007 and March 26, 2009, respectively.

A letter dated April 30, 2009, was received from Safe Hydro Alliance (SHA). Hydro One prepared and sent a letter to SHA containing detailed responses to their concerns on June 18, 2009. A meeting will be scheduled to further discuss and address their concerns. Key issues raised are summarized in **Appendix H2 & H3**.

#### 4.5 First Nations Engagement and Consultation

The objective of First Nations engagement and consultation was to provide First Nations and Métis communities with an opportunity to meaningfully provide input into the Project and for Hydro One to address First Nations concerns.

The Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) (previously the Ontario Secretariat for Aboriginal Affairs) and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) were contacted and requested to identify any First Nation and Métis communities that could potentially be interested in the Project. The project details and the study area were provided to these agencies. A copy of the letter can be found in **Appendix B4**. A summary of the consultation with these agencies is provided in a consolidated consultation summary enclosed in **Appendix G1**. The following are the comments made by INAC and MAA:

- INAC (Specific Claims Branch) confirmed in letters dated May 28 and June 20, 2007 the following: *“the proposed work falls within the area delineated by the Caldwell Land Entitlement Claim. The claim submitted by the Caldwell First Nation, which presently do not have reserve land alleges that the First Nation was entitled to reserve land under the 1790 Treaty. The Government of Canada and the Caldwell First nation are presently negotiating to settle the Caldwell First Nation’s specific claim”*.
- INAC (Comprehensive Claims Branch) in letters received on June 29, 2007 and August 20, 2007 confirmed that there are no comprehensive claims in the Municipalities of Chatham-Kent and West Elgin, Ontario.
- INAC (Litigation Management and Resolution Branch) indicated in emails sent on August 14, 2007 and March 20, 2009, that their inventory includes active litigation cases in the vicinity of the project study area, and they are entitled “Walpole Island First Nation, Bkejwanong Territory v. Attorney General of Canada, Her Majesty the

Queen in Right of Ontario, Ontario Superior Court of Justice, court file reference #00-CV-189329, and Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent v. Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Caldwell First Nation, Federal Court of Canada, court file reference #T-4-00.”

- MAA advised in the letter dated September 26, 2007, that “...at this time it[MAA] is not aware of any First Nation land claims submitted to the Government of Ontario that will have an impact on this project”. MAA recommended that the following Aboriginal peoples be contacted:
  - Moravian of the Thames (Delaware Nation)
  - Munsee-Delaware Nation
  - Walpole Island
  - Caldwell First Nation
  - Chippewas of the Thames

Consultation with the above First Nations Groups was initiated by Hydro One. First Nations Groups received Hydro One’s Notification letters on October 2, 2007 which provided a brief introduction of the project and a description of the study area. Hydro One also sent invitation letters to PIC # 1 and PIC #2 on May 30, 2007 and March 26, 2009, respectively.

Telephone and email contacts with the above mentioned First Nations were made in May and June 2008. No specific concerns were raised at the time by the First Nations communities.

#### **4.6 Project Web Site**

To further facilitate public access to information relating to the Project and the opportunity to provide feedback, a project web page was created on Hydro One’s website at: <http://www.hydroonenetworks.com/newprojects>.

The web page provides an overview of the project, timelines, Class EA process, OEB approval process, and documents information presented at the PICs. It also provides contact information for those who have questions about the project. A copy of the web page is provided in **Appendix B3**.

#### **4.7 Review and Comment Period for the Draft ESR**

Hydro One indicated at both PICs that a Draft ESR would be available for a 60-day public review and comment period. Notice of Completion newspaper advertisements were published in local newspapers to inform the public that the Draft ESR would be made available for review at several public locations and that the document could also be viewed or downloaded from Hydro One’s project website. It provided information on how interested parties may submit their comments to Hydro One and/or the MOE.

Public and stakeholder comments are welcomed and encouraged. Hydro One will consider all issues identified during the review period and will make best efforts to resolve these issues prior to filing the Final ESR with the MOE. All issues or concerns raised during the review period will be documented and summarized in the Final ESR.